MINUTES

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SHELBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

BEAVER CREEK CHURCH,

SHELBY COUNTY, ALA.,

FROM THE 7TH TO THE 9TH OF OCTOBER,

1854:

MONTEVALLO:
HERALD OFFICE PRINT.

	CHURCHES:	Co'nty.	Baptised,	Received by Letter,	Dismissed by Letter,	Restored,	Excluded,	Deceased,	Total,	Minutes,	Association purposes,	Domestic Missions,	Sabbath Meeting,
2nd Division. 1st Division	Beaver Creek,	Shelby		1	6	2	2		47	$2,00	$3.00	$	4
	Mt. Horeb,				1				12	1.50	2,50		2
	Bethesda,		2	2	3			2	46	2,00	2,00		3
	Beaulah,		2	2			1	1	26	2,00	2,00		3
	Liberty,		2	3					61	2,00	3,00		1
	Union,		1					1	46	1,50			4
	Sarepta,			1					22	2,00			2
	Shoal Creek,		5	15	2	1	1		92	2,00	2,00		1
	Providence,		6	3	2	2	4		49	1.50	1,50	50	2
	Mt. Hope,		2		1		1	2	42	1,00			
	Cahaba,	Bibb.							90	2,00	1,00		1
	Total,		20	27	15	5	8	6	533	$19,50	$17,00	$ 50	

A. A. Sterritt has paid Twenty-Two Dollars for publishing Minutes.

—LIBERTY CHURCH—

Holds an Annual Meeting, commencing on the first Saturday in October.

LIST OF MINISTERS, WITH THEIR POST OFFICES.

T. P. HOLCOMBE,	Columbiana.	R. WOOD,	Montevallo.
J. C. HAND,	"	H. KERBO,	"
J. G. WALTON,	"	N. J. NORRIS,	"
J. GILBERT,	"	JAS. ATKINSON, (*L.*)	"
J. D. TEAGUE,	Wilsonville.	T. E. MAHONEY, (*L.*)	"
N. HAGGARD,	Montevallo.	J. D. GOSS, (*L.*)	Chestnut Creek.

JAS D. WEBSTER, Marion.

MINUTES:

The Third Anniversary of the Shelby Association was held with Beaver Creek Church, commencing on Saturday, 7th October, 1854.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. C. Hand, from Ephesians, 2; ix, xx, xi.

After a short recess, the Delegates met in the meeting house, were called to order by the former Moderator, and prayer offered by Elder T. P. Holcombe.

The letters from the Churches were read, and the following Delegate, deputed to act in the Association:

BEAVER CREEK, : Blanton Moore, Robert Seale, A. A. Sterrit.
MT. HOREB, : : : : : Wm. J. Peters, P. O. Mosely, J. B. McClinton.
BETHESDA,: : : : : : J. D. Teague,* J. H. R. Carden, J. W. Teague.
BEAULAH,: : : : : : : James S. Duyck, Calvin Bass, Henley Webster.†
LIBERTY, : : : : : : : : T. P. Holcombe,* J. Gilbert,* J. G. Walton.*†
UNION, : : : : : : : : : Avery Lolley, Henry Paul, Jas. P. Allen.†
SAREPTA, : : : : : : : James C. Hand,* Jordan Jones, Lawrence M. Jones.
SHOAL CREEK,: : : Noah Haggard,* R. Wood,*† E. King, W. K. Deshazo.
PROVIDENCE,: : : : N. J. Norris,* Thos E. Maroney,‡ T. J. Freeman,
MT. HOPE, : : : : : : : Jas. Atkinson,‡ John Lowrey, Wm. Beasley.†

The Association then proceeded to elect officers: Elder T .P. Holcombe was elected Moderator; A. A. Sterritt, Clerk.

An invitation was extended to visiting Ministering Brethren of our order, to sit with us, and aid us by their counsel, which was accepted by Jessee N. Seely.

The Constitution of the Association, Abstract of Principles, and Rules of Decorum being read, on motion of E. King, the seventeenth section of Rules of Decorum was so amended as to require the Moderator to have present at commencement of each session, the Constitution, Abstract of Principles, and Rules of Decorum of the Association.

Opened the door for the reception of Churches into our body, and received the Cahaba Valley Church, by letter of dismission from the Cahaba Baptist Association, with letter, by her delegates, Henry Kerbo,* H. F. Fancher, and L. T. McGuire.†

Received correspondence from sister Associations: From Canaan by Bro. W. C. Harris; Coosa by Brethren Jesse A. Collins and Daniel Wallace; Cahaba by Bro. Henry Kerbo; and from Mulberry by Brethren Allen Brazeel and William Cobb.

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* Ordained Ministers. † Absentees. ‡ Licentiates.

The following Committees were appointed:

Brethren King and J. W. Teague, with the Deacon of Beaver Creek Church,
To arrange Preaching.

Brethren J. D. Teague, Jordan Jones, and Duyck, with the Moderator and Clerk,
To arrange business necessary and proper to come before the Association.

Brethren Peters, J. D. Teague, and J. Jones, } On Finance.

Brethren King, L. M. Jones, and Norris, } On Documents,

The Committee to arrange Preaching, reported that Brother Harris occupy the stand in the early part of the day; Bro. Teague to follow and to preach the Missionary Sermon, under appointment of last session; Bro. Jesse N. Seely, to preach after noon.

Returned correspondence to the following Associations: To the Coosa River by Brethren J. D. Teague and J. Gilbert; to Canaan by N Haggard and N. J. Norris; to Mulberry by J. C. Hand, Levi Honeycutt and Thomas J. Freeman; to Cahaba by N. Haggard and H. Kerbo.

Appointed Bro. Norris to write the letter of corespondence, and directed it to be published with the Minutes.

Appointed Bro. J. W. Teague to act in the place of Bro. Tiser, dec'd, and Brother Bass in place of H. Webster, absent, on the Committee on Missions raised at last session.

On motion, the Association adjourned till 9 o'clock Monday Morning.

Prayer by Bro. Haggard.

[On Sabbath Brethren Harris, Teague, and Seeley preached in the order of their names to an attentive audience, and we trust that their labors will prove not to have been in vain, but that the word spoken may be as seed sown on good ground, and bring forth fruit to the glory of God and good of souls. Bro. Teague preached the missionary sermon, according to appointment, after which a collection was taken, amounting in money and pledges to forty-nine dollars and five cents, for domestic missions in the bounds of this Association.]

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK

Met at the appointed time, and after singing, and prayer by Brother Haggard, the Delegates names were called, and absentees marked.

The committee on arrangement made their report, which was received, adopted, and the committee discharged.

Appointed Brethren Noah Haggard and A. A. Sterritt delegates from this body to the Baptist State Convention; Bro. Haggard to write the letter.

Appointed the next Association to be held with Providence Church, Shelby county, about eight miles south of Montevallo, on Saturday preceding the second Sabbath in October, 1855.

The committee on documents report that they have had the same under consideration, and that they find nothing with which the Minutes should be burthened; and they recommend to the Churches in our bounds, sabbath schools, ministerial support, education of Ministers, the distribution of denominational books and newspapers, foreign and domestic missions, and the encouragement of the exercise of gifts of every kind that tend to the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdon; which was received, and the committee discharged.

Appointed Bro. Holcombe to preach the Introductory Sermon at the

next Association; Bro. Kerbo, alternate. Bro. Hand to preach the Missionary Sermon; Bro. Haggard, alternate.

Bro. Haggard moved the adoption of the following Resolution:—

Resolved, That we consolidate our domestic missionary operations, within our bounds, with the Domestic Board of Missions South, located at Marion, Ala.

Adopted.

Committee on finance made their report, which was received, and the committe discharged. [See Appendix.]

On motion, the following brethren, one from each church, viz: B. Moore, W. J. Peters, J. W. Teague, James Duyck, J. Brasher, Avery Lawley, L. M. Jones, H. Holesomeback, Asa Cooper, John Lowrey, and H. F. Fancher, were appointed a committee for the purpose of ascertaining the views of their respective churches, as to the appointment of a missionary to labor within the bounds of this association, and what amount of funds can be procured for the support of the same. Said Committee requested to meet as soon as practicable for the purpose of selecting a missionary, if the churches should so determine, and recommend him to the domestic board at Marion, for appointment.

Directed that the money collected for missionary purposes, in the hands of this association, be paid to Bro. Jesse A. Collins, agent of the board at Marion.

Ordered that four hundred and fifty copies of these minutes be printed, that the clerk superintend, and receive ten dollars for services, and that Brethren King, of the second district, and Sterritt, of the first district, be appointed distributing agents, reserving 100 copies for correspondents.

Bro. King, who was appointed at the last session of this body to write the Circular Letter, presented the same, which, being read, was received and ordered to be printed with the minutes.

The committee appointed at the last session to carry into effect the resolution then adopted, "That we sustain a missionary to preach in destitute parts of this association," etc., made their report, showing that they had received in money and pledges from the churches and individuals, one hundred and ninety-six dollars and ten cents, including the collections taken at the last association, that they had employed Brethren J. D. Teague, and J. C. Hand, to preach three months in the bounds of the association and adjoining neighborhoods, for which they agreed to pay them one hundred dollars each, etc., which was received, and the committee directed to pay over the money in their hands to the brethren, Teague and Hand.

The missionaries, Brethren Teague and Hand, who labored in our bounds during the time appointed, being present, also made a report of their labors, which was well received.

At the request of Bro. J. W. Teague, he was directed to pay over to the clerk the amount received by him as contributions from the churches, for minutes and associational purposes—thirty-six dollars and fifty cents—which was done, and A. A. Sterritt appointed Treasurer of this association.

Appointed Bro. N. J. Norris to write the next Circular Letter—to select the subject.

Bro. Carden offered the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association, there is no position on earth so responsible as that of a Minister of the Gospel. As an ambassador of Jesus Christ, he

is commissioned from God to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ; that to him is committed a dispensation of the Gospel, that to execute this sacred trust, he must know the Scriptures, that to know the Scriptures, he must have time to study them.

Resolved, That we have implicit confidence in the integrity, purity, and capability for usefulness in the ministry of Bro. James R. Webster, who lives in the bounds of our Association, and who is now in the Howard College, studying for the Ministry, and who is totally dependent upon the spmpathy and assistance of friends for support.

Resolved, That we recommend the Brethren and Churches to take into serious and prayerful consideration, the importanee of contributing liberally to assist Bro. James R. Webster, to enable him to show himself approved unto God, and a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly divining the word of truth.——Adopted.

Bro. Haggard offered the following resolution :—

Resolved, That we are highly gratified to learn that a female missionary society, to promote domestic missions, has been formed by the sisters of Shoal Creek Church, and we recommend the formation of similar societies by all others who desire the promotion of Christ's kingdom.——Adopted.

Bro. Norris, who was appointed to write the Letter of Correspondence to sister associations reported that he had prepared the same, which, being read, was adopted.

After a short address, singing, and prayer by the Moderator, the association adjourned to meet at the time and place before mentioned.

T. P. HOLCOMBE, *Moderator*.

A. A. STERRITT, *Clerk*.

CORRESPONDING LETTER:

The Shelby Association, to Sister Associations, sendeth Christian Salutation :

DEAR BRETHREN:—

It gives us great pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 1853, by the hand of your messengers, whose valuable aid in our deliberations we take great pleasure in acknowledging. We have enjoyed a delightful and harmonious meeting, the good effect of which, we hope, may be felt in days to come. Some of the messengers brought up good news from their churches, while others seem to be clad in mourning on account of an absent God. Brethren, pray for us, that we may have a general refreshing shower from the heavenly world. During the year twenty have been added to the church by baptism.

Our association is harmonions on the subject of temperance, missions, Sunday schools, etc. We have appointed messengers to your body, whom we desire you to receive as faithful, and in return we hope to receive messengers from you at our next meeting at Providence Church, about eight miles south of Montevallo, on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1855.

T. P. HOLCOMBE, *Moderator*.

A. A. STERRITT, *Clerk*.

CIRCULAR LETTER:

DEAR BRETHREN:—

At the last Association I was appointed to write a Circular Letter. The subject assigned me is Family Religion. I presume the subject here alluded to is not intended to designate that kind of family religion that all the family are initiated into the church by sprinkling a little water on the faces of of unconscious babes.

Under the supposition that something more substantial than this is designed, I have taken that view of the subject, the family religion here intended is that kind of religion which springs from repentance toward God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The object designed by our Creator is the salvation of the immortal soul. The fruit thereof is obedience to the commandments of God in the first place; and in the compliance of this duty it is proper that we should become members of the gospel church. By this step we openly acknowledge ourself on the Lord's side and are identified with his disciples, and ready to fight against sin and iniquity, and wickedness of every form and quality. We are now free from the condemnation of sin, through the merciful goodness and merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, and adopted into the family of God. Every true Christian feels the honor of his Master's cause at stake, he feels a strong desire for the prosperity and advancement of the Redemer's kingdom; he can then join the angels above, and the heavenly host in praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will toward men." He feels constrained to acknowledge his gratitude for the favor God has bestowed upon him, by laboring to impart the like great blessing upon every member of the human family; first, his relations and most intimate friends, and then to the whole world. Thus will they show their just sense of the value of that blessing which they enjoy in the knowledge of the gospel of Christ. This knowledge, Solomon says, is Wisdom, and that it is the principal thing to desire; therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting, get understanding; exalt her and she shall promote thee; she shall bring thee to honor; when thou dost embrace her, she shalt give thine head an ornament of grace; a crowd of glory shall she deliver to thee. The effect of this principle imparted on the heart, and operating on the conscience, determines it uniformly to persevere. Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are peace, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Having shown something of what religion is, it is now important to show how it should be exercised in the family. Every Christian should show to his family, and to the world, the sincerity of his profession, by a well-ordered life, and by his conversation. He should not be petulant and passionate, but let his moderation be known to all men. He should be cautious and truthful, be firm in his resolutions and purposes, and should be the head of his family in substance as well as name, be faithful in all his promises, and exercise the control of his family, particularly his children and servants, and should use such correction as will command obedience and respect in every particular. This will apply to a sister as well as a brother, in the absence of the latter. There are various duties enjoined on Christians: Reading the Scriptures, and prayer, are very important. We should search the Scriptures daily, that we may be able to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. In the christian revealtion great stress is laid on the duty of prayer, and great encouragement given to it. Prayer moves the arm that moves the universe. Throughout all ages and nations the obligation to prayer as

a duty, has been recognised, and its propriety has been felt. Prayer is one of the most powerful means of recalling our minds from the vanities of life to serious thoughts, to a proper sense of God, and our duty. In prayer the soul approaches to the borders of an invisible world, and acts as a spirit holding intercourse with the father of spirits. Prayer, by this means, both composes and purifies the heart; and we are commanded to pray without ceasing.

Family religion provokes to love and good works; it prepares the way, and makes easy and delightful our duty of attending to the duties of the sanctuary, for public worship, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, that we may enjoy the comforts of the Holy Ghost. It is remarked by Baxter, if family religion was duly attended to and properly discharged, that the preaching of the word would not be the common instrument of conversion. The family is the nursery of the church: if the nursery be neglected, what, in time, will become of the garden and the orchard. By thus attending to the various Christian duties, we shall grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; we shall add to our faith, virtue; to virtue, knowledge; to knowedge, temperance; to temperance, patience; to patience, godliness; to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity.

Now, dear brethren, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God; for they watch for your souls; as they must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief.

Finally, brethren, farewell, for it is probable this is the last time I shall meet you in an Association; be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

E. KING.

The Clerk was requested to add to the Minutes a statement of contributions by persons in the bounds of Shelby Association, made to Bro. Jesse A. Collins, Agent Board Domestic Missions, to Baptist Convention, for the years 1853 and 1854, as furnished by Bro. Collins, viz:

By individuals in 1853, in	the	vicinity	of	Beaver Creek Church,	$11 00
"	"	"		Mt. Horeb,	8 50
"	"	"		Beaulah,	1 75
"	"	"		Columbiana,	17 25
"	"	"		Ware's Furnace,	24 55
					$63 05
In 1854, in the	vicinity	of		Columbiana,	$20 00
"	"			Sarepta,	2 50
"	"			Union,	3 50
"	"			Montevallo,	7 00
"	"			Shoal Creek Church,	2 70
"	"			Cahaba Valley Church,	19 05
"	"			Mt. Horeb,	15 25
"	"			Beaulah,	2 00
"	"			Liberty,	70—$72 70